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Letter dated 5 April 2006 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

On instructions from my Government, and in response to your letter to the President of the Security Council dated 16 February 2006 and my letter dated 28 March 2006, I have the honour to transmit to you, attached, a letter addressed to you by Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, informing you in particular of the decision taken by Mr. Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, to order the return to Kuwait of Kuwaiti property identified on board the Iraqi aircraft stationed in Tunisia, in view of a final settlement of the related matter with the cooperation of the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ali **Hachani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2006 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

The Tunisian Government has been informed of your letter of 16 February 2006 addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting a letter dated 15 February 2006 from Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, United Nations High-Level Coordinator for issues concerning Kuwaiti prisoners and property.

As stressed in the report submitted by Mr. Vorontsov (S/2005/769), Tunisia has cooperated fully with the parties involved during the joint Kuwaiti-Iraqi mission of experts led by the High-Level Coordinator from 12 to 16 September 2005, during which a Kuwaiti aircraft engine and spare parts found aboard Iraqi aircraft were identified.

Deeply attached to the spirit of dialogue and to international law in the service of ever-improving international relations, and indicating his desire to arrive at a final settlement of the question of the Iraqi aircraft stationed in Tunisia, Mr. Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, ordered the return to Kuwait of the Kuwaiti engine and replacement parts identified aboard those aircraft. The engine and parts in question are henceforth available to our brotherly country, Kuwait, which has already been informed of the decision of Tunisia through a special envoy of the Tunisian President to the Kuwaiti Head of State.

The return of the Kuwaiti replacement parts, and in particular, one of the engines, leaves unanswered for the moment the question of the return of the aircraft to their owner, Iraq, as well as the payment of the costs arising from their storage and maintenance in Tunisia.

Tunisia remains confident that, at a later stage, the United Nations will offer the cooperation necessary to facilitate the settlement of this issue in all its aspects.

(*Signed*) Abdelwaheb **Abdallah**